

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 299789

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S/S:BORG

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R 200057Z DEC 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 299789

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, CZ

SUBJECT: DIVIDED FAMILIES AND CLOSED ZONES

REF: PRAGUE 3107

1. THE DEPARTMENT HAS CAREFULLY CONSIDERED THE EMBASSY'S POINTS IN REFTTEL. WHILE WE DID NOT INTEND TO SUGGEST THAT YOU INDICATE A QUID PRO QUO LINKAGE OF DIVIDED FAMILIES AND CLOSED ZONES, WE AGREE ON REFLECTION THAT AN ATTEMPT TO PROPOSE CONCURRENT MOVEMENT ON BOTH ISSUES MIGHT BE INTERPRETED IN PRAGUE AS AN ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH A HARD AND FAST LINKAGE OF THE TWO.

2. WE THEREFORE PROPOSE THAT THE CHARGE APPROACH ZANTOVSKY OR SPACIL ON DIVIDED FAMILIES ALONG THE LINES SUGGESTED IN PARAGRAPH 2 OF STATE 288555, BUT WITHOUT MENTION OF THE RECIPROCAL ABOLITION OF CLOSED AREAS. THAT IS, CHARGE SHOULD POINT OUT THAT WE HAVE BEEN PLEASED WITH RECENT SIGNS THAT
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PAGE 02 STATE 299789

THE GOC IS INTERESTED IN IMPROVING BILATERAL RELATIONS,

I.E. FOREIGN MINISTER CHNOUPEK'S FOREIGN POLICY SPEECH,
AND IMPROVEMENT IN THE CZECH MEDIA TREATMENT OF THE US.
CHARGE WOULD THEN RAISE THE QUESTION OF WHEN WE MIGHT EXPECT
PROGRESS ON DIVIDED FAMILIES CASES, GIVEN THE MANY PUBLIC
AND PRIVATE ASSURANCES OF MFA OFFICIALS THAT MANY CASES
WILL BE RESOLVED.

3. FYI: WE ARE FULLY COGNIZANT OF OUR COMMITMENT TO
MAKE A FORMAL PROPOSAL TO THE CZECHS ON RECIPROCALLY
ELIMINATING CLOSED ZONES AND WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF
WELSHING ON THIS COMMITMENT. NEVERTHELESS, WE WOULD
PREFER TO HAVE SOME POSITIVE NEWS ON DIVIDED FAMILIES
BEFORE WE MAKE OUR MOVE. KISSINGER

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